

Message Text

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54

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 FDRE-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SS-20 NSC-10 PRS-01

PA-04 IGA-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /137 W

----- 016718

P 131510Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7143

UNCLAS NIAMEY 450

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID SWEL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VISITS DROUGHT-STRICKEN TAHOUA REGION

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF FIVE-DAY VISIT (FEB 6-10) TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS IN DEPARTMENT OF TAHOUA, PRESIDENT DIORI DESCRIBED SITUATION OF NOMADS AS CATASTROPHIC. DIROI WAS ESPECIALLY STRUCK BY EXTREME SUFFERING AMONG VERY YOUNG. HE TERMED PLIGHT OF TUAREG AND FULANI NOMADS GATHERED AROUND URBAN CENTERS AS MUCH WORSE THAN WHAT HE SAW ON VISIT TO AGADEZ LAST SUMMER. CHARGE'S TRIP IN JANUARY THROUGH TAHOUA REGION LED TO SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS.

2. PRESIDENT DIORI ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MEETING OF PARTI PROGRESSISTE NIGERIEIEN AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ORGANIZED TO CONSIDER EMERGENCY MEASURES AND THAT ADDITIONAL GRAIN, VEGETABLES AND BLANKETS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY SENT TO THE STRICKEN ARE. HE REITERATED APPEAL FOR AID FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

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3. IN MEETING WITH RDO ON FEB 12 MINDEVELOPMENT BEMBELLO (WHO ACCOMPANIED DIORI) REFERRED TO TRIP AND GRIMLY REMARKED THAT THE NEED FOR THE REQUESTED 100,000 TONS OF US SORGHUM AND 10,000 MT CORN WAS INDEED DESPERATE, AND URGED US TO CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT EXPEDITE APPROVAL AND EARLIEST POSSIBLE SHIPMENT.

4. RDO AND CHARGE HAVE REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DIORI TO DISCUSS AID MATTERS (EXPECTED FEB 14 OR 15). WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BEFORE MEETING THAT NIGER WILL RECEIVE 35,000 MT SORGHUM FROM LATEST SAHELIAN TRANCHE. BUCHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMINE, DISASTER RELIEF, CORN, DROUGHTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, GRAINS, VEGETABLES, SORGHUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAMEY00450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740236/aaaabhfq.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT VISITS DROUGHT-STRICKEN TAHOUA REGION
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, NG, (DIORI, HAMANI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005